Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7343

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 4178

ROME PLS PASS AMB TOON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, IS, EG

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERIM

SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT

SUMMARY: ISRAELI PRESS JULY 1 DEVOTES EXTENSIVE

SPACE TO CONFLICTING SPECULATIONS ON NATURE OF DECISION GOI

CABINET MAY TAKE CONCERNING INTERIM ACCORD WITH

EGYPT, INCLUDING REPORTS OF POSSIBLE US CONTROL

OF WARNING INSTALLATIONS ON BOTH ENDS OF SINAI

PASSES. EFFORTS OF "DOVES" AND "HAWKS" TO

LINE UP SUPPORT TO INFLUENCE CABINET DECISION

GIVEN DETAILED COVERAGE. WHILE SOME REPORTERS

BELIEVE RABIN STILL HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND ON CONCESSIONS. ONE LEADING JOURNALIST REPORTS THAT HE IS

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ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EFFORTS

TO SECURE POLITICAL SUPPORT IN FAVOR OF HOLDING EASTERN END OF PASSES. END SUMMARY.

- 1. PRESS JULY 1 DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO SPECULATION ON ADDITIONAL ISRAELI CONCESSIONS TO REACH INTERIM ACCORD WITH EGYPT.
- 2. HAARETZ (GOLAN) REPORTS THAT IT WAS DECIDED TO REQUEST THE US TO ASK EGYPT FOR A DETAILED MAP SHOWING ITS WITHDRAWAL DEMANDS. SO FAR, EGYPTIANS HAVE CONFINED THEMSELVES TO REJECTING ISRAELI PROPOSALS WHILE DEMANDING A WITHDRAWAL FROM ENTIRE AREA OF PASSES, BUT HAVE NOT EXACTLY DEFINED LINE. AT SAME TIME, ISRAEL WILL STUDY MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF FURTHER CONCESSION IN PASSES. WHETHER TO MAKE SUCH A CONCESSION WILL BE DECIDED ONLY NEXT WEEK, AFTER US POSITION IT IS LEARNED.
- 3. ACCORDING TO GOLAN, CONSULTATIONS WILL SHIFT INTO HIGH GEAR WHEN DINITZ ARRIVES WITH FIRST-HAND IMPRESSIONS OF ANTICIPATED US POSITIONS IN CASE OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER FEW DAYS' STAY, DINITZ WILL PRESUMABLY FLY BACK WITH NEW ISRAELI MAP INCLUDING NEW CONCESSION, WHICH, IT WILL BE STRESSED, WILL BE LAST WORD UNLESS EGYPT OFFERS CONCESSIONS OF ITS OWN.
- 4. GOLAN ADDS THAT JERUSALEM IS VERY BITTER ABOUT PRESENT ATTITUDE OF WASHINGTON. GOVERNMENT CIRCLES SAY THAT US' UNRESERVED SUPPORT OF CAIRO'S POSITION IS HARMFUL TO NEGOTIATIONS, SINCE IT MAKES IT EASIER FOR SADAT TO REFUSE ANY CONCESSIONS.
- 5. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS DISCUSS POSSIBILITY THAT WARNING INSTALLATIONS IN THE SINAI WILL BE MAINTAINED BY AMERICANS. YEDIOT (ZIMUKI) REPORTS IN HEADLINE STORY THAT GENERAL STAFF WAS ASKED TO PREPARE AN OPINION ON MILITARY AND STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF REMAINING IN THE PASSES FOR JULY 6 CABINET MEETING. EGYPTIANS UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT ISRAELI ELECTRONIC WARNING AND SURVEILLANCE INSTALLATIONS (IN UM HASHIVA) MAY BE MANNED BY "A THIRD PARTY", NOT THE UN. REFERENCE IS PROBABLY TO AN AMERICAN FORCE. PRESS NOTES THAT PRIME MINISTER OPPOSED TO THIS PROPOSAL.

6. PRESS ALSOHIGHLIGHTS DEVELOPING ISRAELI INTERNAL POLITICAL CONFRONTATION OVER ISSUE OF ADDITIONAL CON-

CESSIONS. RABIN REPORTEDLY IS ENGAGED IN ACTIVE SUPPORT TO BUTTRESS HIS OPPOSITION TO RETURNING EASTERN PART OF PASSES. LABOR PARTY, RAFI FACTION (PERES, YAACOBI, DAYAN) REMAINS OPPOSED TO OFFERING NEW CONCESSIONS, WHILE LABOR MODERATES TOGETHER WITH MAPAM, AND ILP CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SETTLEMENT EVEN AT EXPENSE OF FORFEITING MOST OF SINAI PASSES. OUTCOME OF INTERNAL DEBATE IS DECIDEDLY UNCERTAIN.

7. NEW THEME IN TODAY'S PRESS IS THAT ENTIRE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IS LIKELY TO BE DRAGGED OUT OVER SEVERAL WEEKS. INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS, EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH WASHINGTON AND CAIRO, AND PM'S FOUR DAY VISIT TO BONN NEXT WEEK ARE FACTORS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO EXPECTATION THAT ON INTERIM SETTLEMENT "MOMENT OF DECISION" IS STILL SEVERAL WEEKS AWAY. VELIOTES

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TAGS: PFOR, OREP, US, IS, EG To: STATE

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